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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 HEW-02 NEA-09 AID-05 AGR-05 /073 W
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R 270725Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7698
DEA WASHDC

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FOR ABOVE ADDRESSEES FROM RD BRIGGS

EO 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: UN-TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE/JANDARMA TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: GENEVA 7627, DTG 231645Z DEC 74

1. THE REQUIREMENT OF SECTIONS 1 AND 2 PARAGRAPH 6
OF THE REFERENCED CABLE WILL BE MET BY DEA HEADQUARTERS,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO SECTION 3 OF PARAGRAPH 6, MR. MANBY,
U.N. DND, HAS RECENTLY HELD COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH TOP JANDARMA AND TNP OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH
COORDINATION OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT THROUGHOUT TURKEY.
HE SHOULD THEREFORE BE IN POSSESSION OF REQUISITE
INFORMATION TO COMMENT ON THE RELATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES,
POTENTIALS, AND TRAINING NEEDS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.

3. THE FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT OF RAW OPIUM AND MORPHINE BASE
TRAFFICKING PATTERNS AS THEY EXISTED PRIOR TO BAN ON PLANTING POPPIES
AND PRIOR TO DECISION TO GO TO STRAW PROCESS IS OFFERED IN
RESPONSE TO SECTION 4 OF PARAGRAPH 6.
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A) IN TURKEY THE OPIUM POPPY IS PLANTED IN FALL. ALL OF THE OPIUM COLLECTED THE FOLLOWING HARVEST SEASON (MAY - JULY) IS TO BE SOLD EXCLUSIVELY TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY. THE LAST PRICE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1972 WAS 525 TL OR $37.50 PER KILOGRAM. SHORTLY AFTER PLANTING THE FARMERS ARE CONTACTED BY ILLICIT OPIUM COLLECTORS WHO INVARIABLY ARE MEMBERS OF WELL DOCUMENTED TRAFFICKING GROUPS. THE CURRENT VALUE OF A KILOGRAM OF OPIUM ON THE ILLICIT MARKET IS 5000 TL OR $365.00. BY OUTBIDDING THE GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY, WHOSE BARGAINING POWER IS LIMITED BY THE LEGITIMATE WORLD MARKET PRICE, AND BY ADVANCING BETWEEN 25 PERCENT AND 50 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF THE OPIUM, THE ILLICIT COLLECTORS HAVE CONSISTANTLY BEEN ABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE ILLEGITIMATE MARKET.

B) ONCE DIVERTED, THE OPIUM IS STORED IN A SECURE LOCATION UNTIL A SIZEABLE QUANTITY IS GATHERED AND A CUSTOMER IS FOUND. IN THE PAST TO FACILITIATE SMUGGLING THE MAJORITY OF THE OPIUM WAS THEN CONVERTED BY TURKISH "CHEMISTS" INTO MORPHINE BASE AT A RATIO OF 10 KGS. OF OPIUM TO 1 KG OF BASE. THE MAJORITY OF MORPHINE BASE WAS INTENDED FOR EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS AND WAS TRANSPORTED TO VARIOUS TURKISH PORTS SUCH AS IZMIR AND ISTANBUL BY TRUCK OR TRAPPED AUTOMOBILE.

C) THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PREFERRED SMUGGLING ROUTES.

I. FROM ISTANBUL THROUGH THE DARDENELLES WHERE AT SOME POINT ALONG TURKEY'S AEGEAN COAST A SMALL LAUNCH MEETS THE SHIP AND LOADS THE MORPHINE BASE. FROM THERE TO ANY NUMBER OF SMALL ISLANDS OFF THE COAST OF CORSICA OR SARDINIA WHERE ANOTHER LAUNCH MEETS THE SHIP AND TAKES DELIVERY.

II. BY PASSENGER AND AUTOMIBILE FERRY FROM IZMIR TO THE ITALIAN PORTS OF BRINDIZI OR VENICE.

III. FROM ISTANBUL TO TRIESTE, ITALY, TO
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TRIPOLI, LIBYA WHERE BUOY-LIKE SMUGGLING DEVICES ARE JETISONED TO BE PICKED UP BY LAUNCH.

IV. VIA TIR OR OTHER TRUCKS THRU BULGARIA ETC. TO GERMANY.

D. MORPHINE BASE IS ALSO SMUGGLED IN SMAL QUANTITIES OVERLAND TO GERMANY AND SCANDANAVIA ON THE

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PERSON OR IN THR TRAPPED VEHICLES OF IMMIGRANT TURKISH LABORERS. THE MORPHINE BASE IS BELIEVED CONSUMMED IN THESE COUNTRIES BY AN INCREASING INDIGENOUS MORPHINE ADDICT POPULATION. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE LARGE SCALE SMUGGLING OF MORPHINE BASE TO WEST EUROPEAN MARKETS UTILIZING TIR TRUCKS HAD BEEN GREATLY CURTAILED BY THE TURKISH OPIUM BAN - AS HAD MORPHINE BASE SMUGGLING BY ALL MEANS FROM TURKEY. AN ALARMING DEVELOPMENT, GENERALLY COINCIDENT WITH THE GOT'S ANNOUNCED RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION, HAS BEEN THE APPARENT INCREASE OF MORPHINE BASE SMUGGLING ACTIVITY AND RENEWED CONTACT BETWEEN INVETERATE TURKISH SUPPLIERS AND FRENCH/CORSICAN HEROIN CONVERTERS.

E. ANOTHER CAUSE OF THE DECLINE IN THE RECENT PAST OF MORPHINE BASE ACTIVITY, IN ADDITION TO AND PERHAPS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE TURKISH POPPY BAN, IS THE LURE OF THE EGYPTIAN OPIUM MARKET. THE PER KILOGRAM WHOLESALE PRICE OF OPIUM IN EGYPT IS ALLEGED TO BE AN INCREDIBLE 42,000 TL OR $3000.00. THIS COMBINED WITH THE EASE OF SMUGGLING BETWEEN TURKEY AND EGYPT IS CERTAIN TO HAVE SYPHONED OFF A SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF OPIUM WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE SUPPLIED THE WESTERN MARKET.

F. TRANSPORT FROM TURKEY IS ACCOMPISHED BY SMALL LAUNCH FROM THE SAMANDAG AREA OF ISKENDERUN PROVINCE IN TURKEY'S EXTREME SOUTH-EAST COAST TO ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, WHERE THERE ARE ALLEGED OPIUM WAREHOUSES. AN ALTERNATE ROUTE IS TRANSPORT BY TRUCK THROUGH THE TURKISH/ SYRIAN BORDER NEAR ALEPPO, FROM ALEPPO OVERLAND TO BEIRUT AND FROM BEIRUT BY LAUNCH TO ALEXANDRIA. THE REALISTIC PROSPECT OF INTERDICTION BY EITHER ROUTE IS NEGLIGIBLE.
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G. EVERY ASPECT OF THE TRAFFIC, FROM INITIAL DIVERSION AT THE POPPY FIELD TO TRANSPORT ALONG IDENTIFIED ROUTES, IS POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE. WHAT IS NEEDED IS INCREASED COORDINATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF THE TURKISH ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY IE, THE JANDARMA, TNP, CUSTOMS, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE TRAFFIC AS AN ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY. A READY VEHICLE FOR INCREASED COORDINATION OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WOULD BE A JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER WHICH WOULD COLLECT, COALATE, AND DISSEMINATE VITAL INFORMATION ON A TIMELY BASIS.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PERSONNEL TRAINING, DRUG TRAFFIC, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA00741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750029-0887
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750119/aaaaaqnl.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 7627, 75 DTG 231645Z, 75 DEC 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN-TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE/JANDARMA TRAINING PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, TU
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006